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Recent Statements by Cuban Leaders  
Calling for Armed Revolt in Latin America

Fidel Castro, January 2, 1963:

"We are examples for the brother peoples of America because the captives, Mr. Kennedy, are not the Cubans. The captives are the millions of Indians and Latin Americans who are exploited by the Yankee monopolies, exploited by Yankee imperialism in Latin America. When you, Mr. Kennedy, when you speak of captives, you say Cubans, but you not think of us. You think of and fear the rebellion of the real captives, the rebellion of the exploited. If the workers and peasants of Latin America had weapons as our people do, we would see what would happen. We would see who are the real captives, because these, whom you call captives, are armed captives, with tanks, planes. Give the workers and peasants of Latin America tanks and planes and you will see who are the captives. That is the irrefutable proof.

"But there is no hurry. We did not have cannons either. We did not have planes, but today we do. We were as disarmed as those captives of Latin America, but that did not prevent the triumph of the people, the triumph of the revolution. When peoples decide to struggle, they can do what we did, and the millions of Latin Americans exploited by the imperialists can do what we did. And the peoples are beginning to awake and struggle.

"In the case of Venezuela The imperialists were given evidence of what revolutionary solidarity is - - active solidarity of revolutionaries who do not sit in their doorways to wait for the corpse of their enemy to pass by, of revolutionaries who understand that the duty of all revolutionaries is to create the revolution.

"We have the great historic task of bringing this revolution forward, of serving as an example for the revolution of Latin America, and within the socialist camp, which is and always will be our family."

Ernesto "Che" Guevara, in an interview with the Habana correspondent of the London Daily Worker, November 28, 1962:

"The Cuban revolution has shown that in conditions of imperialist domination such as exist in Latin America, there is no solution but armed struggle -- for the people to take power out of the hands of the Yankee imperialists and the small group of the national bourgeoisie who work with them."

"Cuba has shown that small guerrilla groups, well-led and located in key points, with strong links with the masses of the people, can act as a catalyst of the masses bringing them into mass struggle through action. Such action, to be convincing, must be effective, and guerrilla action has shown how armed forces can be beaten and how guerrillas can be converted into an army which eventually can destroy the armed forces of the class enemy."

"We say that this can be done in a large number of Latin American countries. But this is not to say that Cuba's example is to be followed mechanically, but rather adapted to the specific conditions in each of the Latin America's 20 countries. There is no other solution possible in these countries except armed struggle. The objective conditions for this exist, and Cuba's example has shown these countries the way."

Armando Hart, Minister of Education, November 21, 1962:

"The Cuban revolution showed that revolution was possible. The Cuban revolution pointed the way of mass insurrectional action, and to point it out was a key question in the development of revolution in Latin America.

"It can be said clearly that the road of war against imperialism and the lackeys of imperialism in Latin America is the road of armed insurrection of the Latin American peoples against the despotic governments which Latin America suffers from.

"If the imperialists arrogate to themselves the right to form alliances against Cuba with the Argentine military clique and with all the military and politicking cliques in Latin America as well as with Romulo Betancourt, then the vast masses have the right to form alliances in the streets for a fight without quarter in the country, in the educational centers, and everywhere. Cuba will make an alliance with the peoples to exert pressure against imperialism. Every revolutionary has the right and duty to wage a revolution in such a case."